The Vasantha Mahal, Mysore, India
March 31, 1959

Dear Frank MacGregor:

I was just about to write you and Cass Canfield (to whom I spoke briefly on the telephone when we were both in New Delhi recently...) details of His Highness' visit to America, when a letter from Sanford Greenburger arrived saying that he had already passed along to you the schedule I had sent him. And also that you were going to have a look at the Aesthetics manuscript. Nice teamwork!

If the Canfields find it convenient during the April 17-26 period HH willbe in New York to give one of their famous dinners for him, I think it would be an excellent idea. I am eager to keep him out of the clutches of the professional India-phobes, if you know what I mean, and I hope I am not insulting you by confessing that I think he will be perfectly safe with Harpers ! Ambassador Bunker and I have given a lot of thought to the people we want HH to meet, to whom we are writing. On the list of those I will be writing to are Stuart and Marion Chase, Jim Warburg, Norman Cousins, Lester and Meta Markel, Pearl Buck Walsh, Paul Hoffman, Robert Hutchins, among others around New York. I am asking them please to try to get behind the title and the apparent surface shyness to"the real Mr. Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar - an active and able administrator and a knowing and deeply philosophical man." (There are rumors here and in official circles around New Delhi, that because of his smooth bridging of the old feudal India and the new Democratic independent India, as well as because of his philosophical bent, he might well become, one day, President or Vice-President of India. He would probably be horrified at the ideaas he is about as un-political as one can get - but in any event, I think you will be seeing him more active from now on in international matters, the UN, and so on , especially as he is something of an expert on Africa.) O yes - another person he surely should meet is Russell Lynes - I'll drop him a note, but surely you can fix that one.

Now, as to the book on Aesthetics: I have just been talking again to Professor Nikam, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Mysore. who is Secretary of the International Institute of Philosophy. I quote him: " Philosophy of Art is a subject presented for advanced students of the M.A. degree at Indian Universities. There is NO book on Indian Aesthetics available for study (only British and American texts), so His Highness' book would fill a much needed gap in the field. We need such authentic, scholarly books based on original texts. I believe this lack of suitable study material on the subject of Aesthetics also applies to America."
A further point I would like to make about almost all of His Highness' work is that, while there seem to be millions of commentaries on the Vedas, the Bhagavad Gita, the Yoga Sutras, and other Sankrit works, His Highness is breaking new ground and bringing commentaries together in the light of modern thinking. I assume your readers will be quick to spot this. Perhaps this volume is for the textbook department. In any event, we are not happy about the idea of subsidized books and hope this and other of His Highness' works can find a place for themselves on the basis of pure merit. If a subsidy is necessary, perhaps a Foundation can be interested. I wrote some time ago to the Bollingen Foundation, because of their Asian interests, and Jack Barrett has responded, and will meet His Highness in New York.

The enclosures are to serve as sort of a pre-introduction: 1) background sheet to insure accuracy on names and dates; 2) photos in several moods; 3) Handbook of Mysore in case anybody wants to argue - as has happened! - that Mysore is in Japan!) We hope publicity will be at a minimu, except before academic groups.

His Highness has not written you because plans were still shaping up and because we had expected to see Cass Canfield here. He is looking forward to meeting you both in New York. Please set dates convenient to you with Gopala Menon (with whom HH will be staying) at India House, 3 East 64th Street, Trafalgar 9-7800 - who will be keeping track of appointments.

Yours cordially,

Julie Medlock

CC to HH, Sanford Greenburger, Cass Canfield

Frank S. MacGregor, Chairman of the Board
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